



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NEW EARLY LEARNING GUIDELINES HELP CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SUPPORT YOUNG CHILDREN'S SCHOOL READINESS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY**

**Fairfax, VA** – For the first time in Fairfax County, [early learning guidelines](#) have been created to support the school readiness of young children in child care in Fairfax County. Created by Fairfax County's Department of Family Services' Office for Children in collaboration with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), and Fairfax Futures through a grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services *Smart Beginnings* initiative, the early learning guidelines are aligned with Fairfax County Public Schools curriculum and program of study.

According to Gail Bjorklund, director of the School Readiness Collaborative, "the guidelines were created to inform early childhood educators about what children should know and do in different areas of development and provide examples of learning experiences that child care providers can use to support the emotional, social, intellectual and physical development of children from birth to age five."

"Child care providers work as partners with parents in ensuring that young children have the skills they need to enter kindergarten ready to succeed," notes Judith Rosen, Director of the Office for Children.

"These guidelines can help child care providers offer a supportive and nurturing educational environment that encourages young children's development and readiness for school."

Training on the use of the Early Learning Guidelines is now available to child care providers in Fairfax County through the Office for Children's Institute for Early Learning.

The Commonwealth of Virginia is creating its own set of early learning guidelines that will draw many of its components from the template that Fairfax County has created through its partnership with FCPS, NVCC, and Fairfax Futures.

The draft guidelines will be finalized this fall.

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To request this information in an alternate format,  
call Dan Dildine, 703-324-8042, TTY 711.

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